

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 08358 271933Z

44

ACTION AF-06

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P R 271203Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000K

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USDEL SECRETARY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 8358

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MILI, KE,US

SUBJ: KENYAN REQUEST FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT: F-5S

REF: STATE 202893 -TOSEC 100174

HOPE THAT DEPARTMENT WILL WEIGH CAREFULLY SITUATION WE ARE
LIKELY TO CONFRONT IF WE DECIDE TO APPROACH THE SHAH IN
ORDER TO OBTAIN F-5A/B AIRCRAFT FOR KENYA. FOLLOWING
CONSIDERATIONS SEEM GERMANE TO US:

A. COMMITMENT WHICH USG MADE TO KENYA WAS MADE WITHOUT
INDICATION OF GOI WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE AIRCRAFT. WE
WARNED DEPARTMENT BY CABLE(TEHRAN 3820)AND USAF TEAM
ORALLY DURING MEETINGS HERE THAT IRAN HAD NOT AGREED TO
PROVIDE AIRCRAFT. IRANIANS, THEREFORE, DO NOT SEE THEM-
SELVES INVOLVED IN A PROMISE U.S. MADE WITHOUT THEIR
AUTHORIZATION.

B. WE BELIEVE THAT SHAH HAS AT LEAST TWICE REFUSED
OUR REQUEST FOR AIRCRAFT FOR KENYA. IRANIAN DECISIO S
PROVIDED BY TOUFANIAN(TEHRAN 6838 AND 7535) WERE SURELY
APPROVED BY THE SHAH BEFORE BEING COMMUNICATED TO US.

C. ESSENTIAL IRANIAN OBJECTION TO MAKING PLANES
AVAILABLE FRO KENYA, WE THINK, IS GOI'S DESIRE TO TRANSFER
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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 08358 271933Z

F-5AS TO JORDAN AS SHAH HAS UNDOUBTEDLY PROMISED KING

HUSSEIN. WE BELIEVE THAT JORDAN RANKS SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER THAN KENYA IN IRANIAN SCALE OF VALUES AND IRAN WILL NOT BE LIKELY TO REVERSE ITS DECISION ON MOVING PLANE TO JORDAN UNLESS WE OBLIGE IT TO DO SO. SHOULD WE REFUSE PERMISSION FOR TRANSFER OF F-5AS TO JORDAN, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IRAN WILL FEEL IN MOOD TO FAVOR US WITH SALE OF AIRCRAFT FOR KENYA.

D. DURING OUR LAST CONVERSATION WITH TOUFANIAN RE THIS SUBJECT (TEHRAN 7535 PARA 3), HE REFERRED TO AVAILABILITY OF MAP F-5AS FOR OUR PURPOSES LATER THIS YEAR. ALTHOUGH HE MADE NO MENTION OF GREECE AS A DESTINATION FOR THESE AIRCRAFT, HE IS AWARE OF OUR PLANS TO MAKE THAT TRANSFER. WE CAN PRESUME THAT IRANIANS WILL BELIEVE THAT IF WE THINK AIRCRAFT FOR KENYA ARE ESSENTIAL WE WILL CONSIDER DIVERTING F-5AS FROM GREECE. IN OTHER WORDS, IRAN HAS A COMMITMENT TO JORDAN AND WE HAVE A COMMITMENT TO GREECE. THE QUESTION IS WHICH COUNTRY IS TO BREAK ITS COMMITMENT TO SATISFY KENYA.

E. IF AFTER CONSIDERING THESE FACTORS DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD MAKE AN APPROACH TO THE SHAH, WE SHOULD ALSO BEAR IN MIND THAT AS AN OFFSET WE MAY BE ASKED TO PROVIDE HIM WITH EQUIVALENT FAVORS, E.G., EXPEDITED DECISIONS AND DELIVERY OF SPRUANCE SHIPS AND SUBMARINES.

HELMS

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